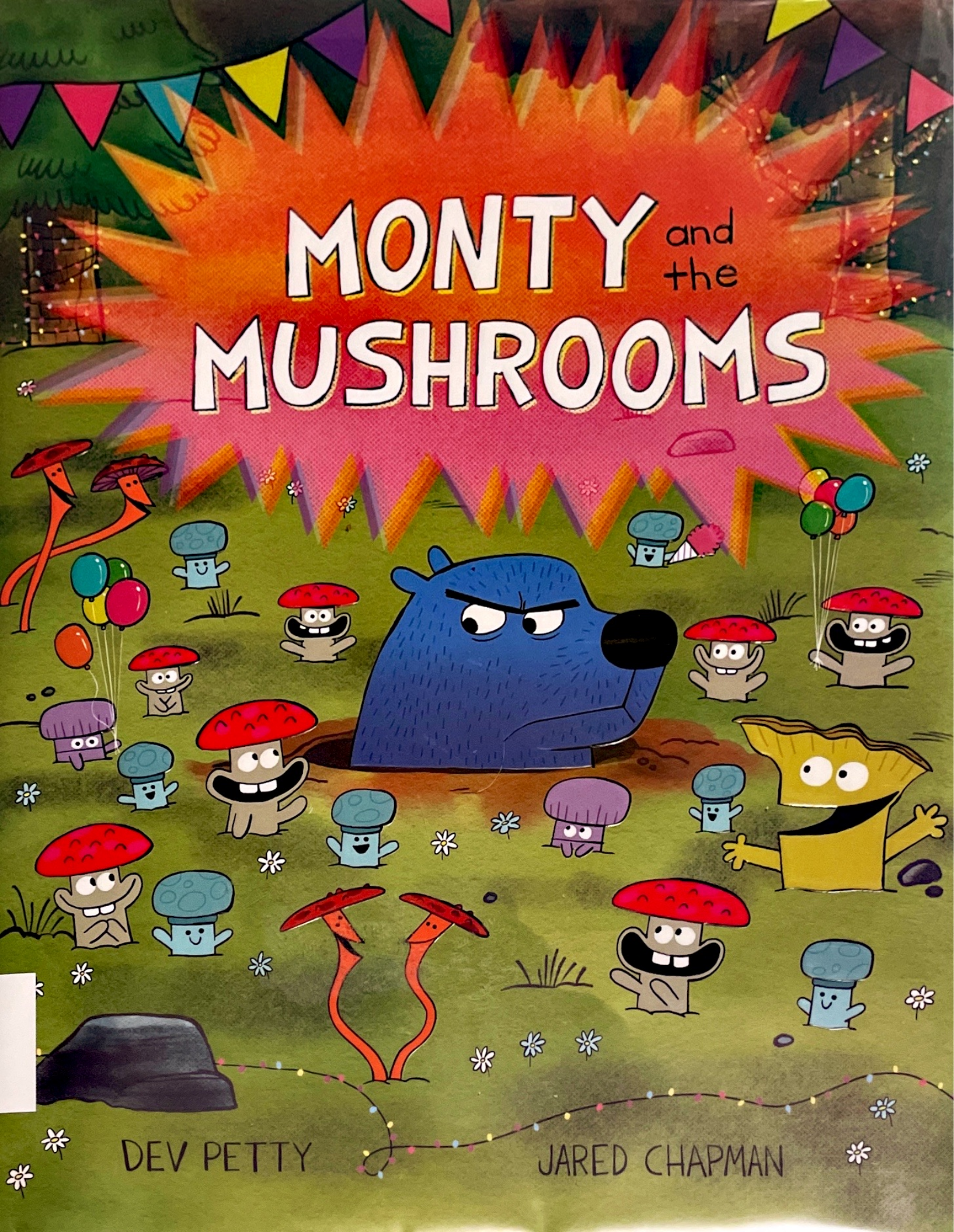
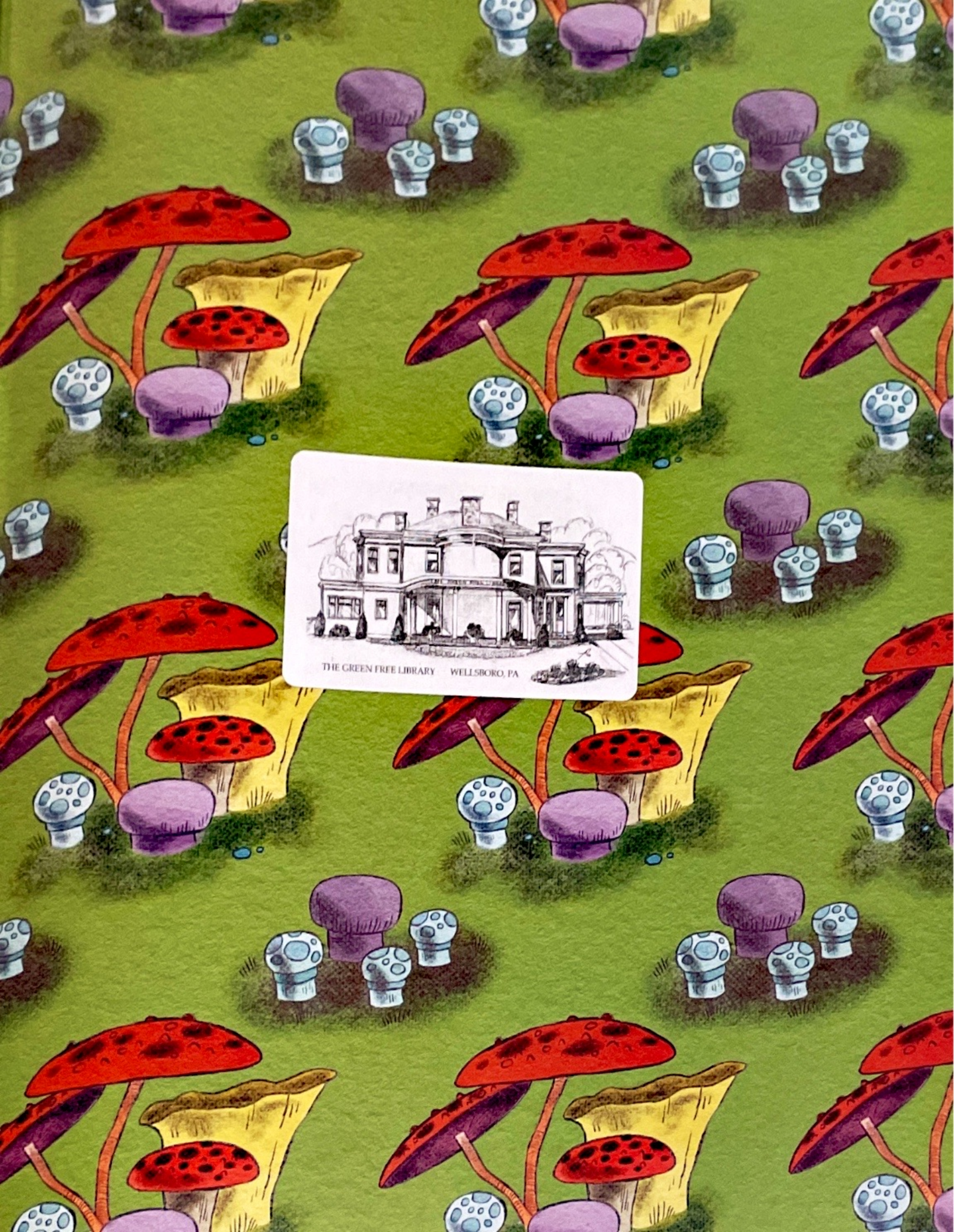

MONTY and the MUSHROOMS
DEV PETTY
JARED CHAPMAN

EVERYONE KNOWS mushrooms are the noisiest creatures in the forest. They sing mushroom songs and tell mushroom jokes all day, and they put on mushroom puppet shows all night. When they pop up next to a hole where a new friend lives, they can't wait to get to know him. Maybe he loves mushroom poetry!

But in that hole is a marmot. Monty the Marmot. And everyone knows what marmots love most is peace and quiet.

Surely they'll find a way to work it all out.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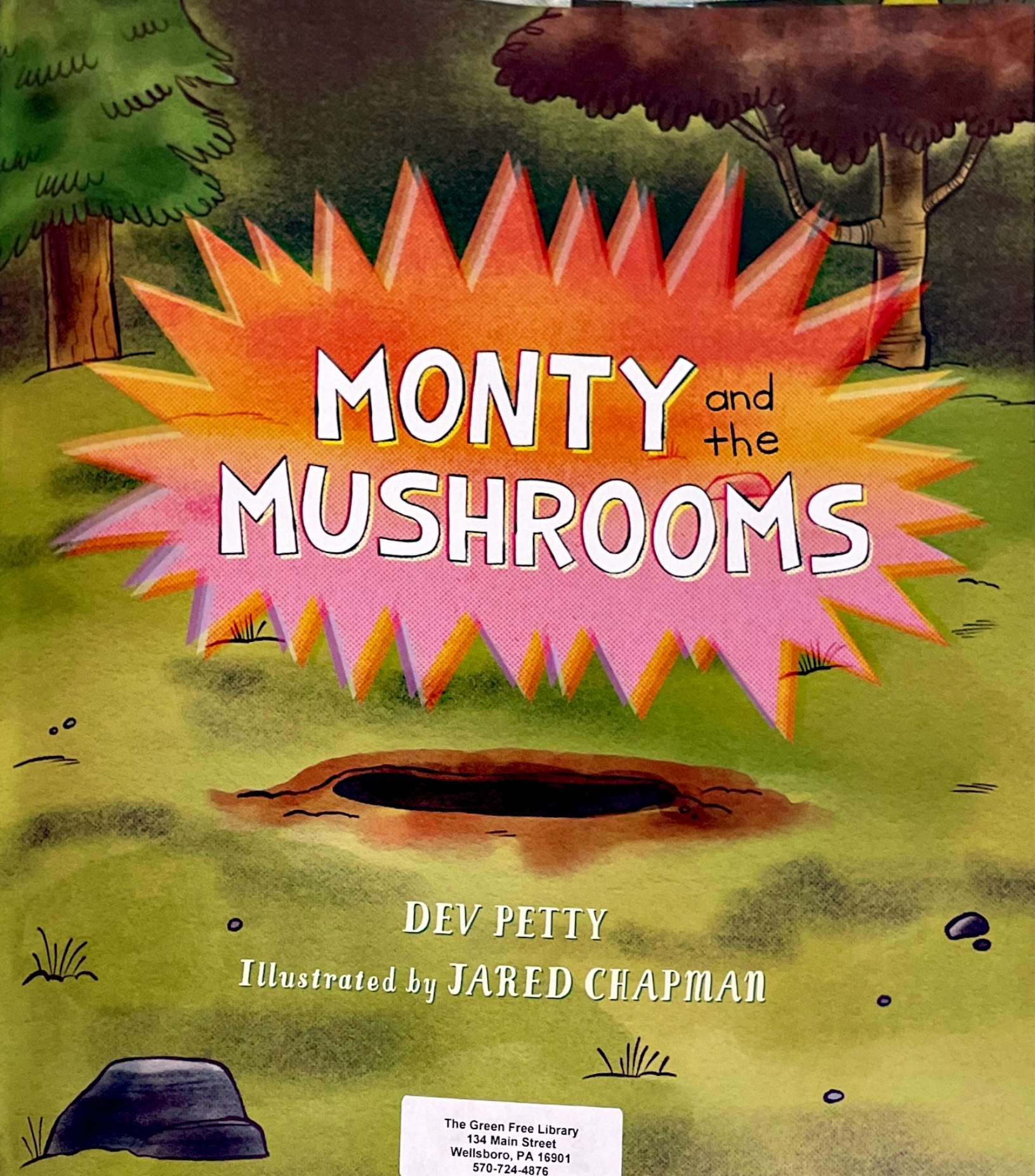

DEV PETTY

Illustrated by JARED CHAPMAN

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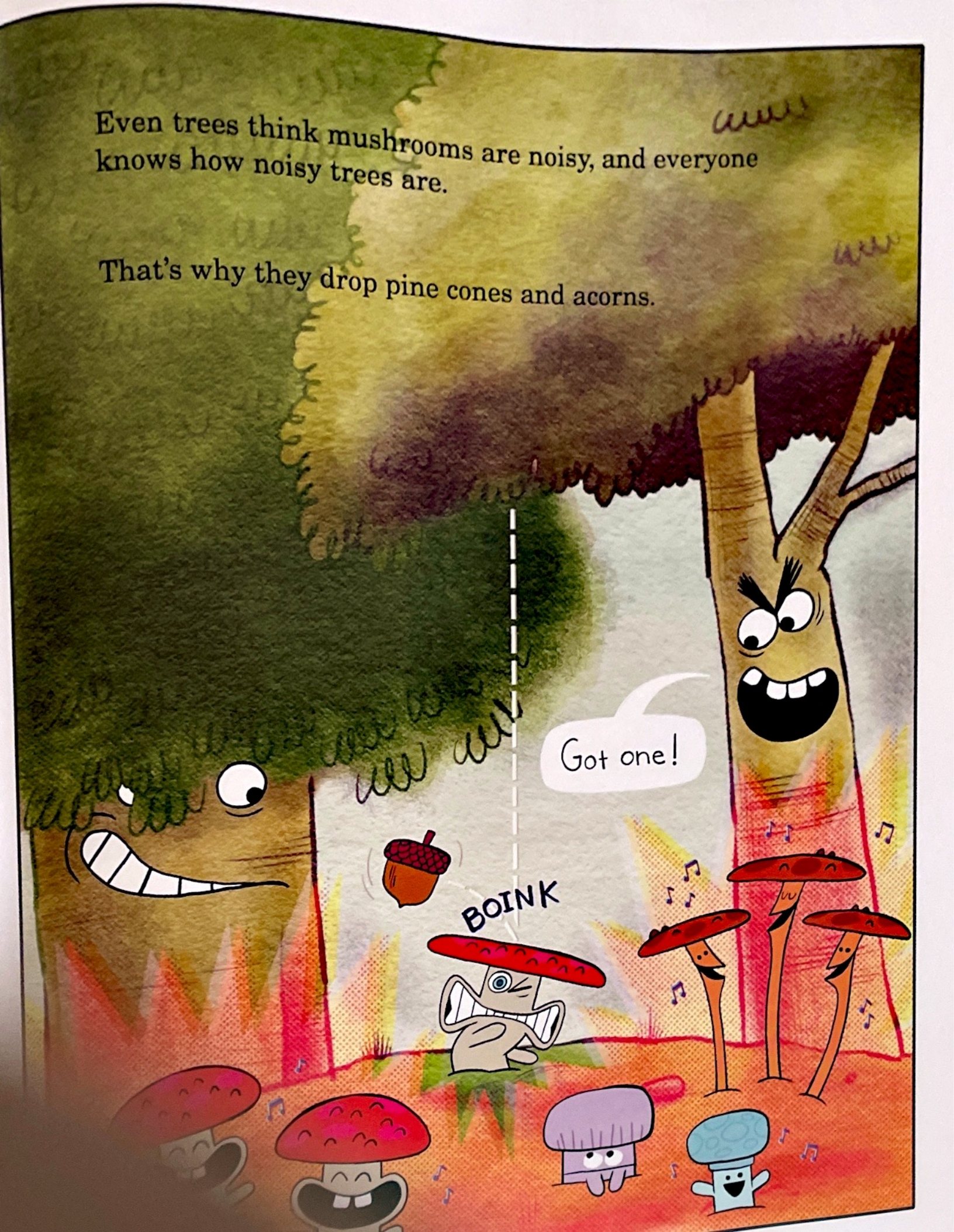
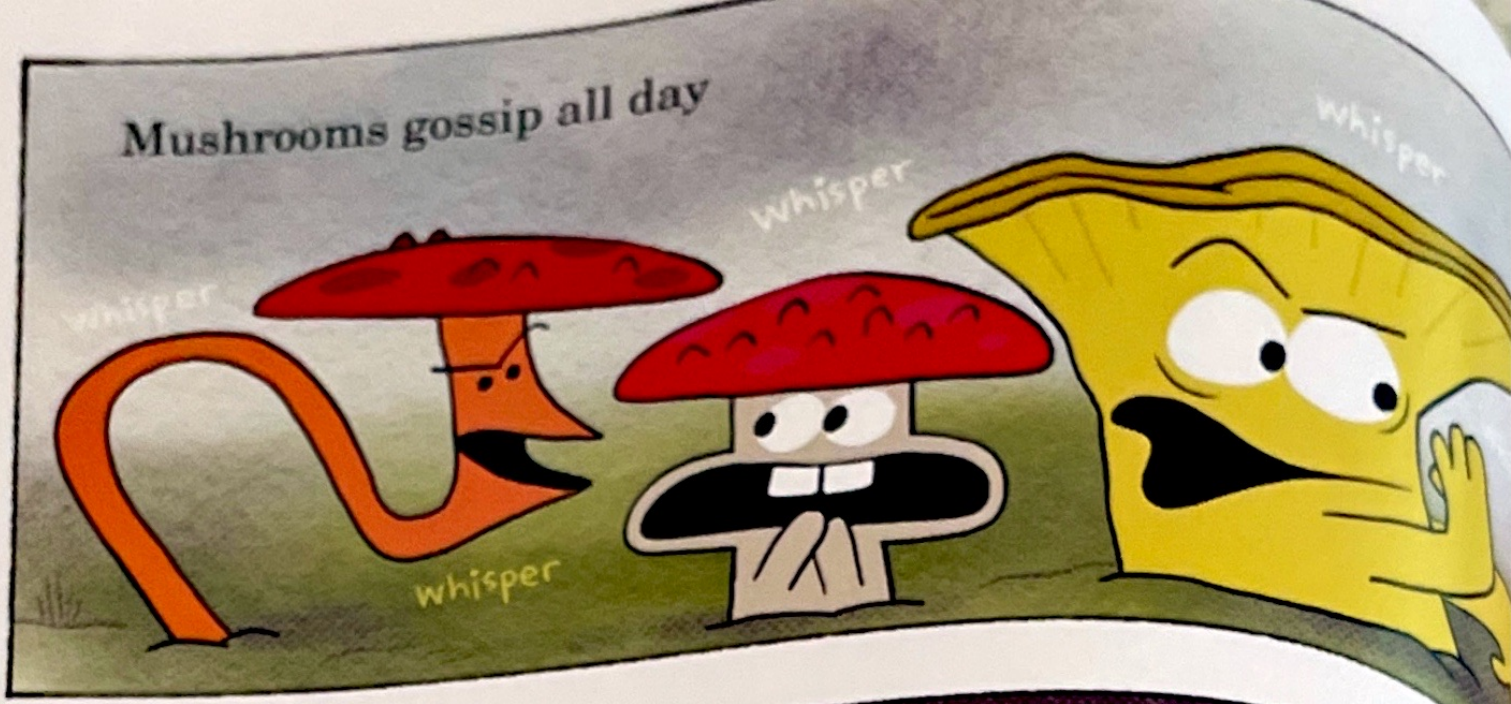
Deep in the shady woods,
under the giant oaks,
you'll find
mushrooms.

And as everyone knows,
mushrooms are LOUD.
It's why worms go underground,
why birds have wings.
I'm outta here.

Even trees think mushrooms are noisy, and everyone knows how noisy trees are.

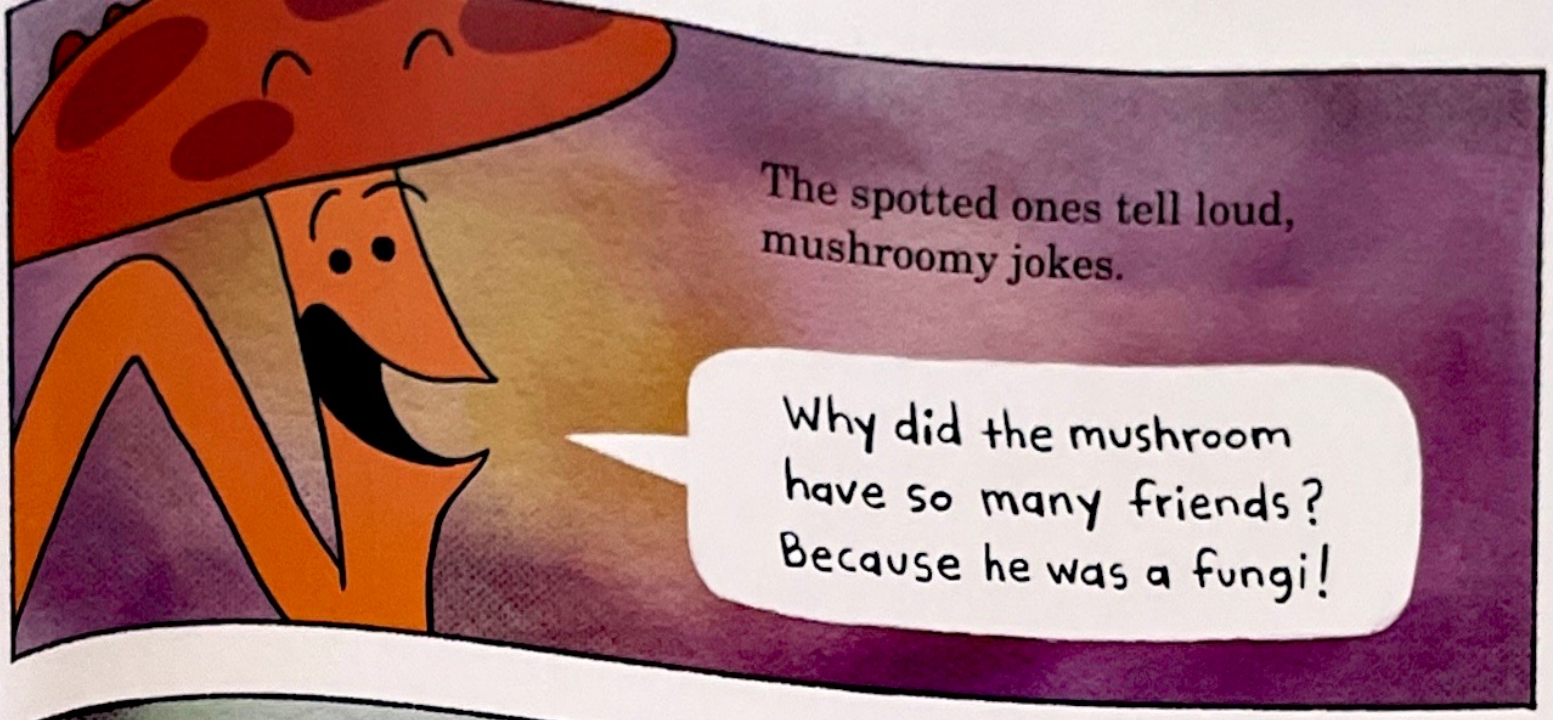
That's why they drop pine cones and acorns.

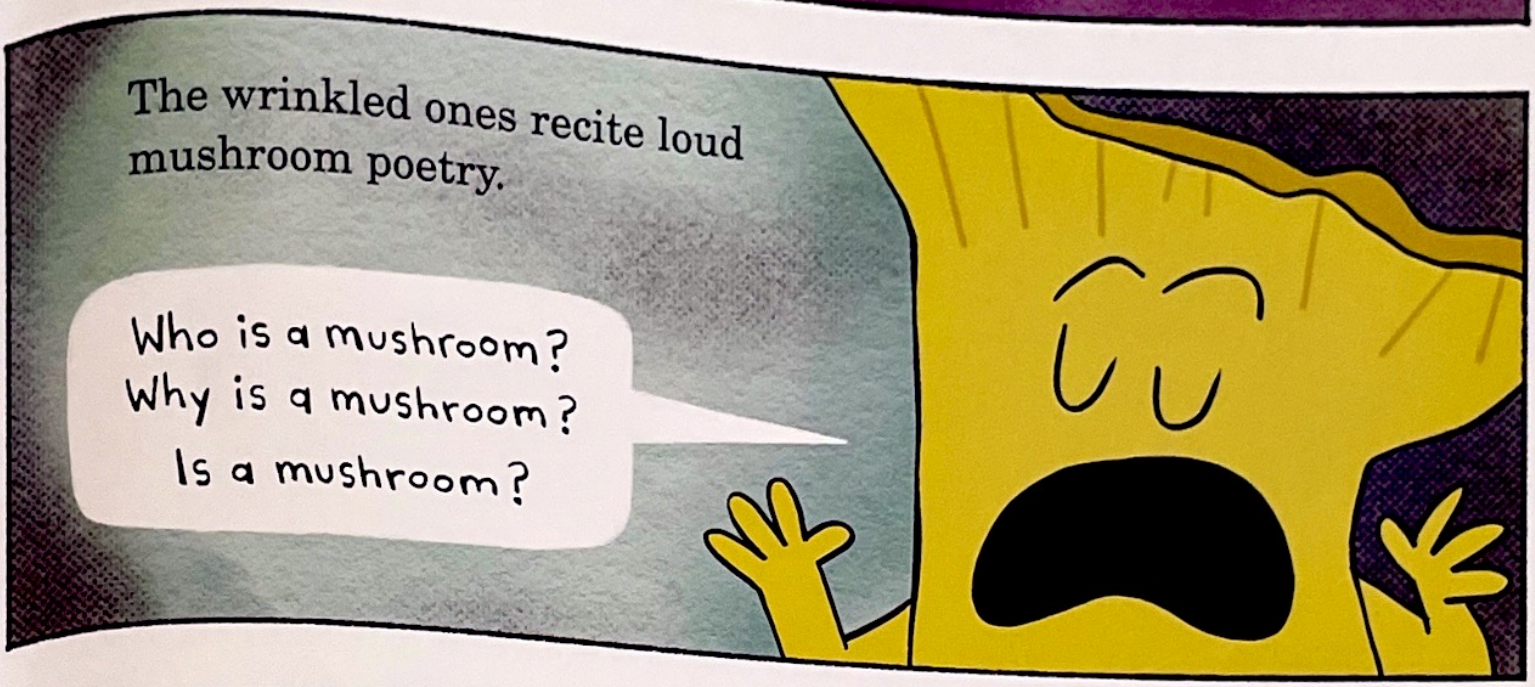


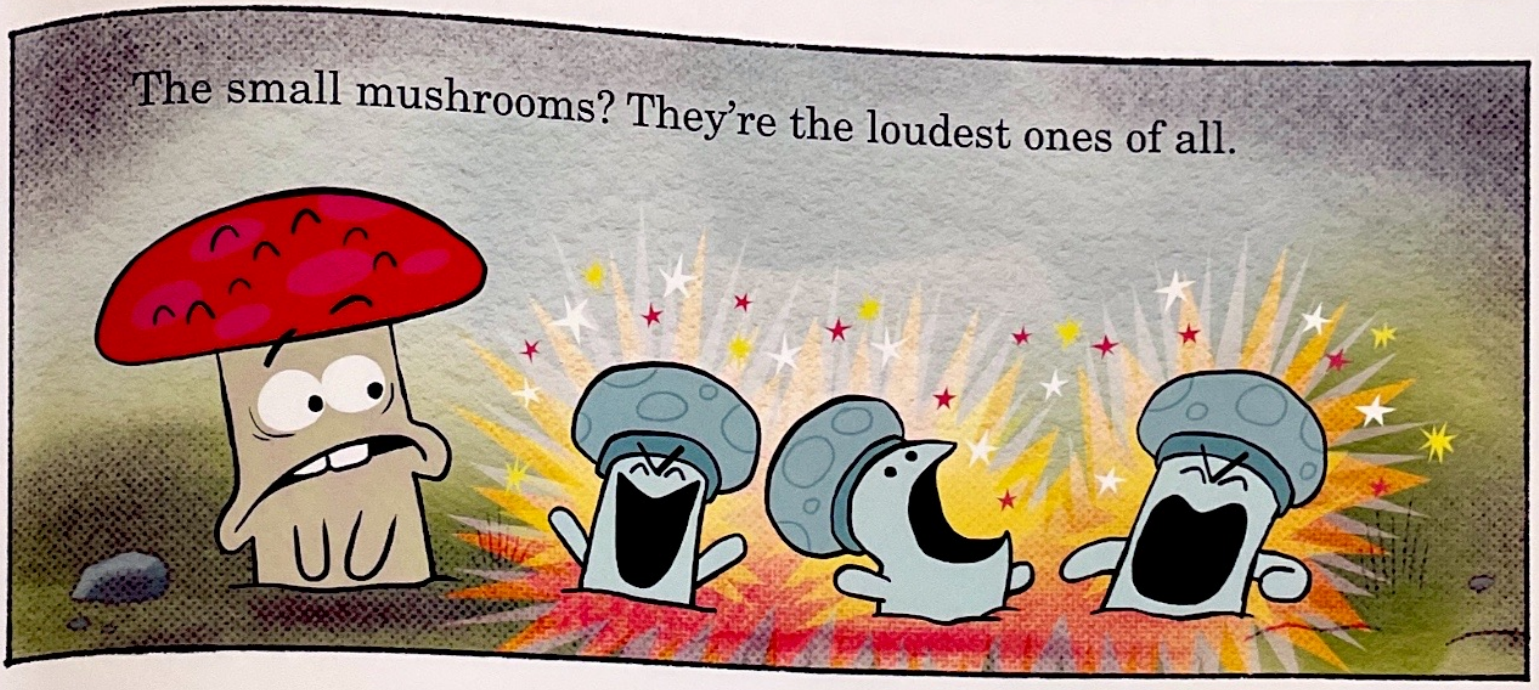

Mushrooms gossip all day
whisper
whisper
whisper
whisper

and argue all night.

And if a mushroom starts telling a story, just get comfortable.
Long ago, last week, when I was a young spore...


The spotted ones tell loud, mushroomy jokes.
Why did the mushroom have so many friends? Because he was a fungi!

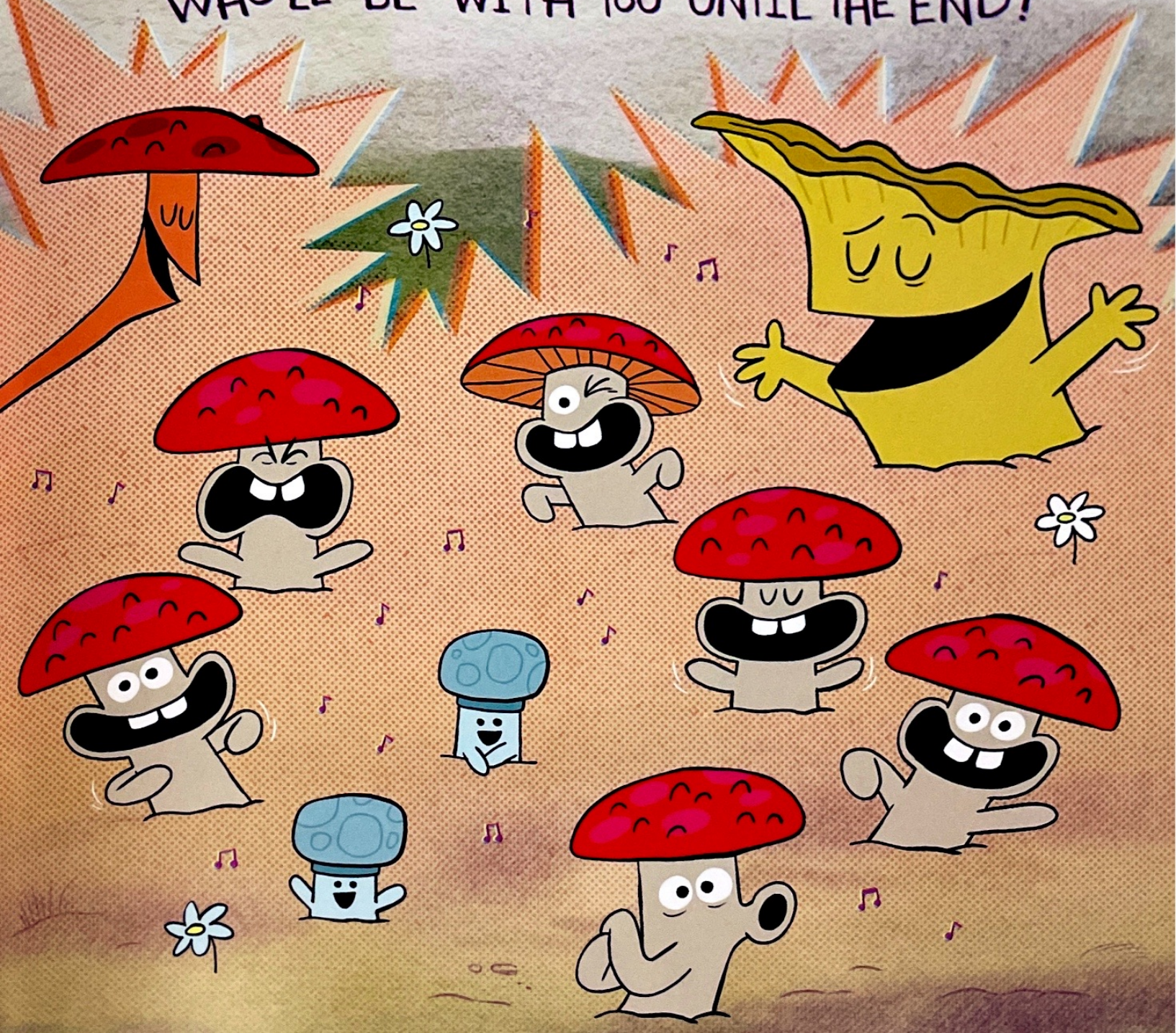

The wrinkled ones recite loud mushroom poetry.
Who is a mushroom?
Why is a mushroom?
Is a mushroom?


The small mushrooms? They're the loudest ones of all.

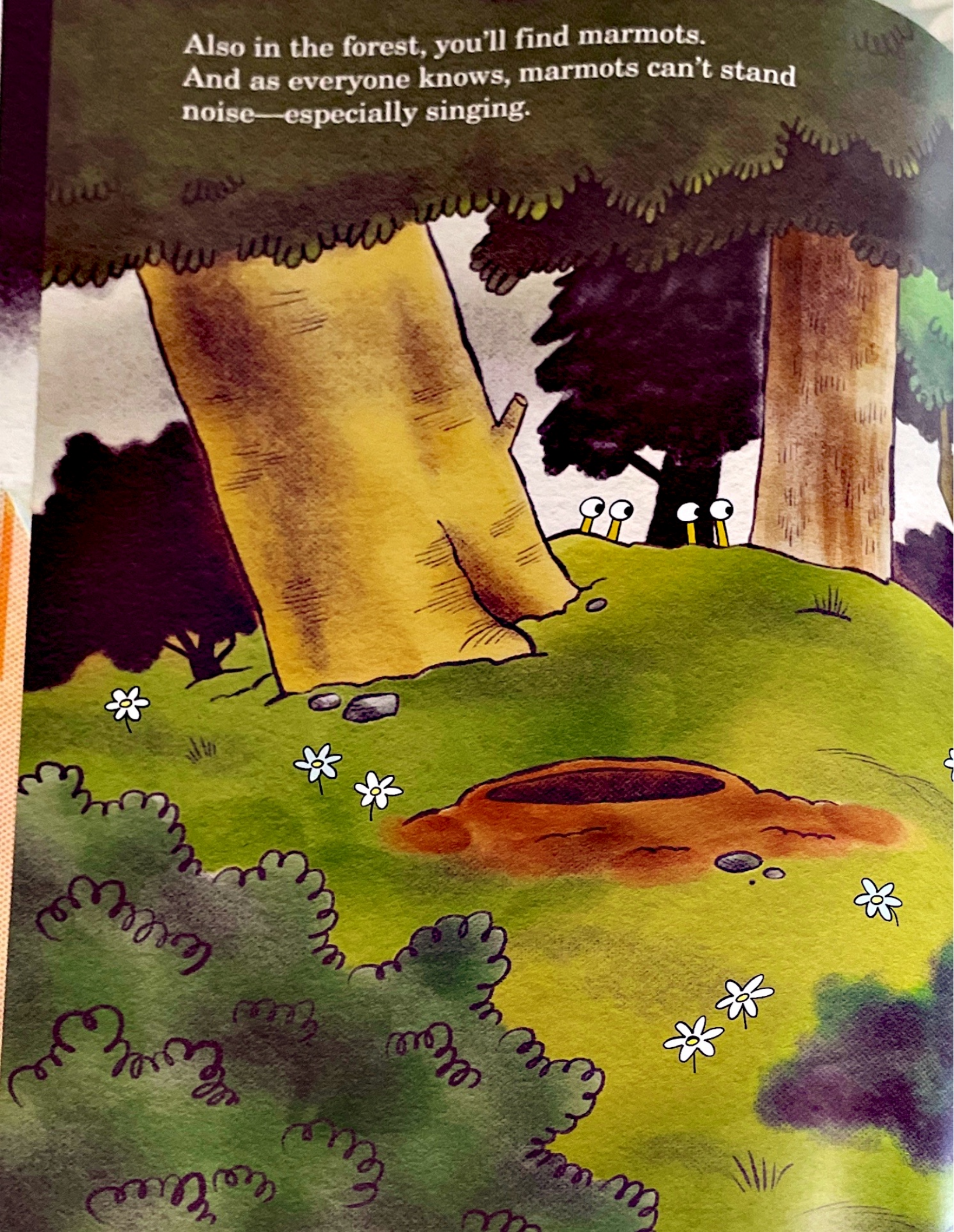
When they aren't gossiping
or arguing
or telling stories
or just hollering "blah blah blah blah blah,"
they sing long, loud songs about how great it is to be a mushroom.

OH, WE ARE MUSHROOMS, MUSHROOMS ALL,
MUSHROOMS SHORT AND MUSHROOMS TALL,

MUSHROOMS HAPPY, MUSHROOMS SAD,
MUSHROOMS GOOD AND MUSHROOMS BAD.
MUSHROOMS UP AND MUSHROOMS DOWN,
MUSHROOMS POP OUT OF THE GROUND.
A MUSHROOM IS THE BESTEST FRIEND
WHO'LL BE WITH YOU UNTIL THE END!



Also in the forest, you'll find marmots.
And as everyone knows, marmots can't stand noise—especially singing.

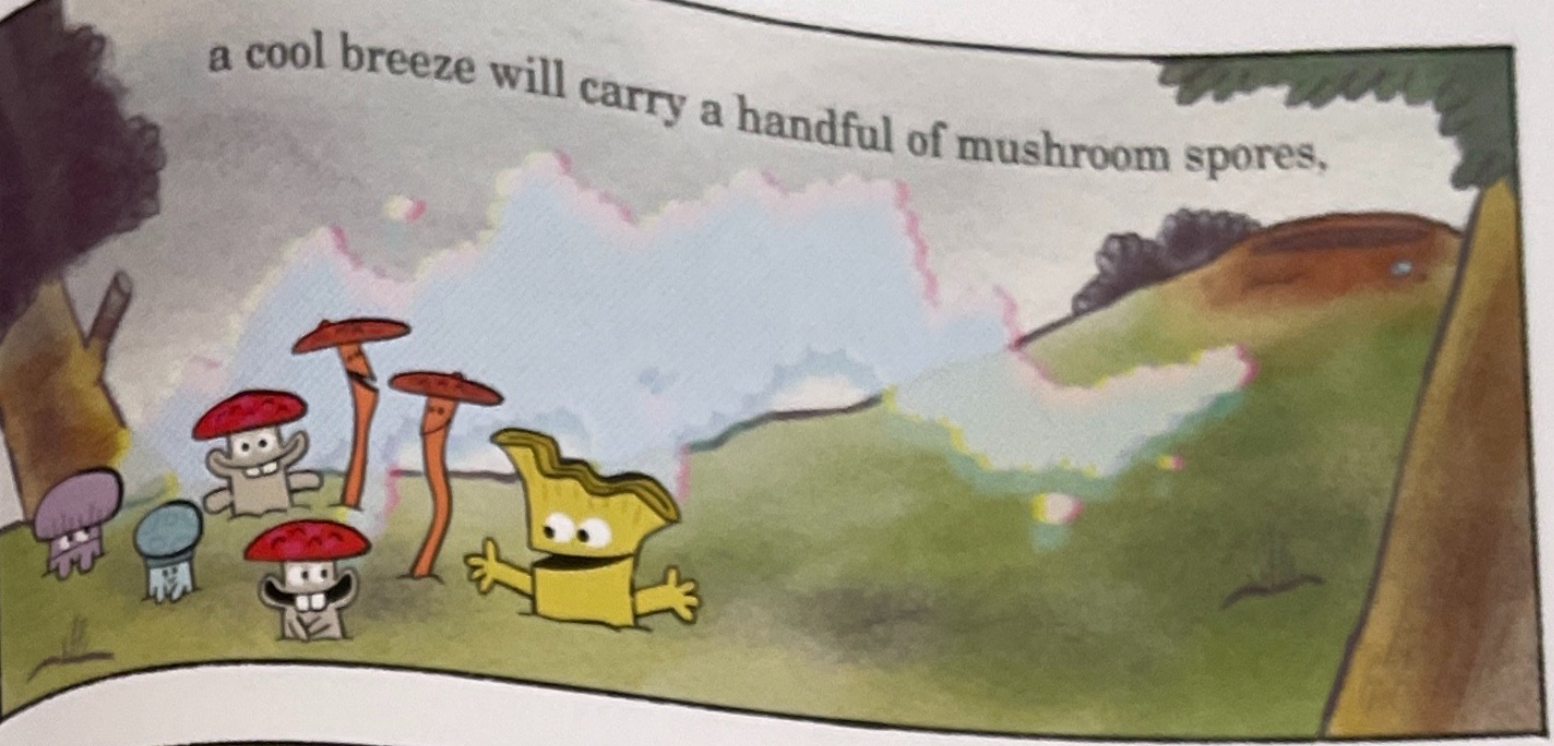


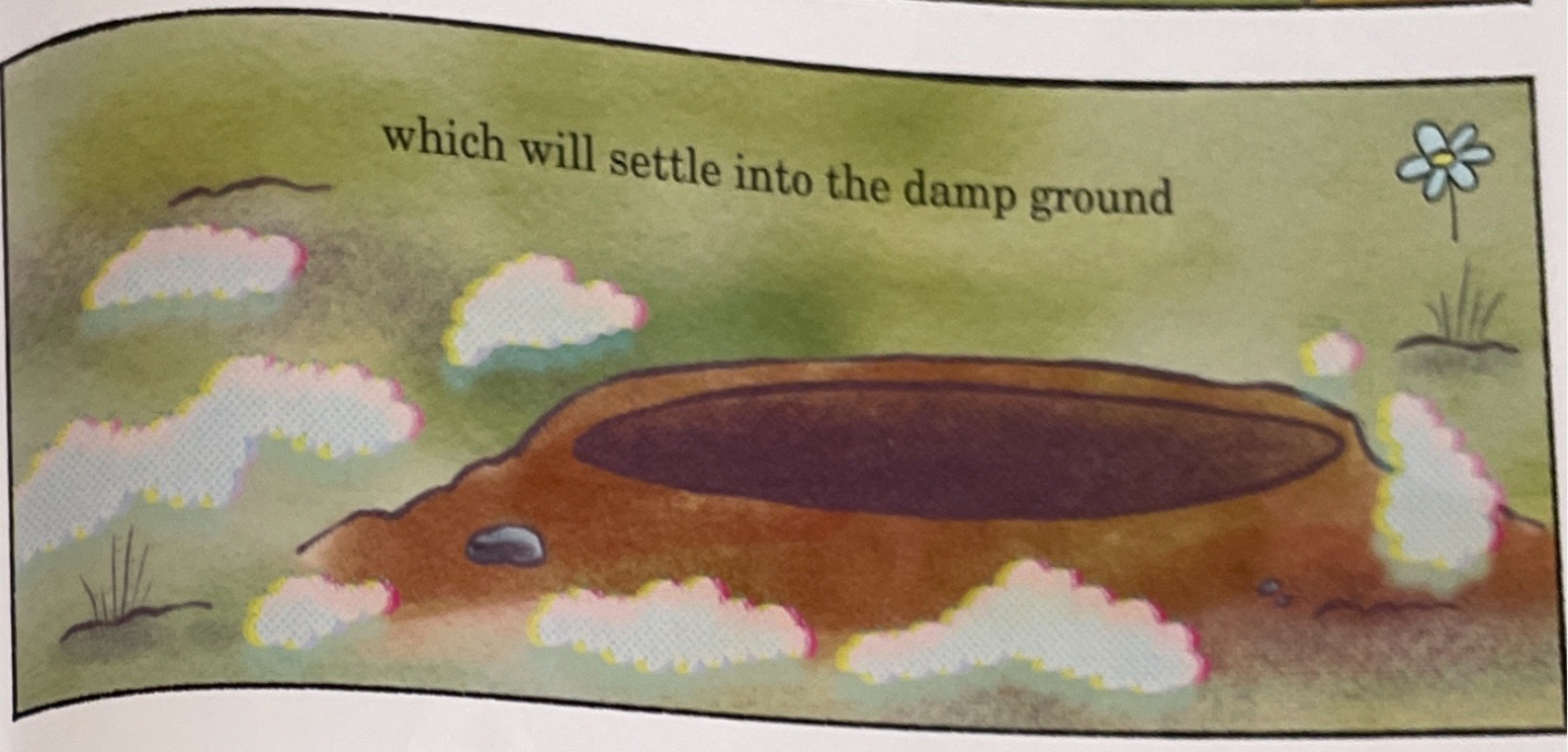
That's why hummingbirds hum

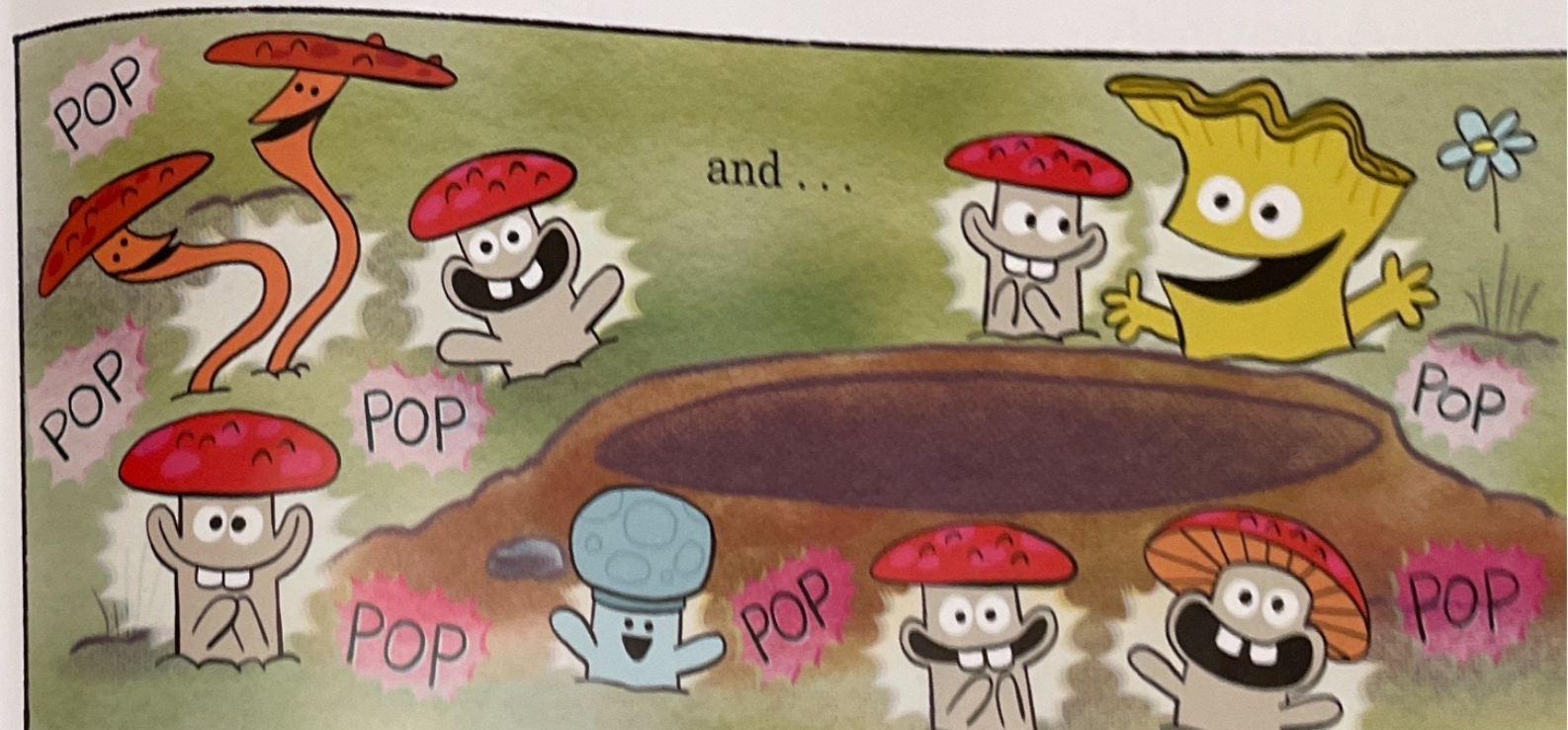
and deer are so quiet all the time.

No one wants an angry marmot.

This one here is Monty.
He looks tranquil now.
But in a few hours . . .
THE ART OF PUTTING BOATS IN THINGS
SHHHH!
NO NOISE
SILENCE
NO TALKING
THE BOOK OF SILENCE


a cool breeze will carry a handful of mushroom spores,


which will settle into the damp ground


POP
POP
POP
and . . .
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP

Howdy!
Hi!
We're mushrooms!
Are you some sort of squirrel
I am Monty.
A marmot.

OH! YOU'RE A MARMOT, THAT'S NOT WRONG. JOIN US IN A MUSHROOM SONG!
Okay, now just the marmots! OH-

What do mushrooms love
almost as much as making noise?
Making friends.
Maybe we didn't sing
loudly enough.

Monty could try to ignore
the mushrooms.

Hellooooo?
Are you down there, Monty?
What are you doing?
Are you still doing that?
How about now?
SNAP
GLUE

Things will look brighter after a good night's sleep.
That's what Monty needs: rest.

But . . .

. . . the moon is out.
Everyone knows mushrooms *always* put on puppet shows when the moon is out.
FUNGI THEATER
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

Perhaps Monty just needs to talk to his chatty neighbors.
Nature is all about communication.

Are you the mushroom in charge?
Yes, I am. I'm what you'd call the "head mushroom."
Perfect. Could you keep the noise down?
Noise? What noise?
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
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BLAH
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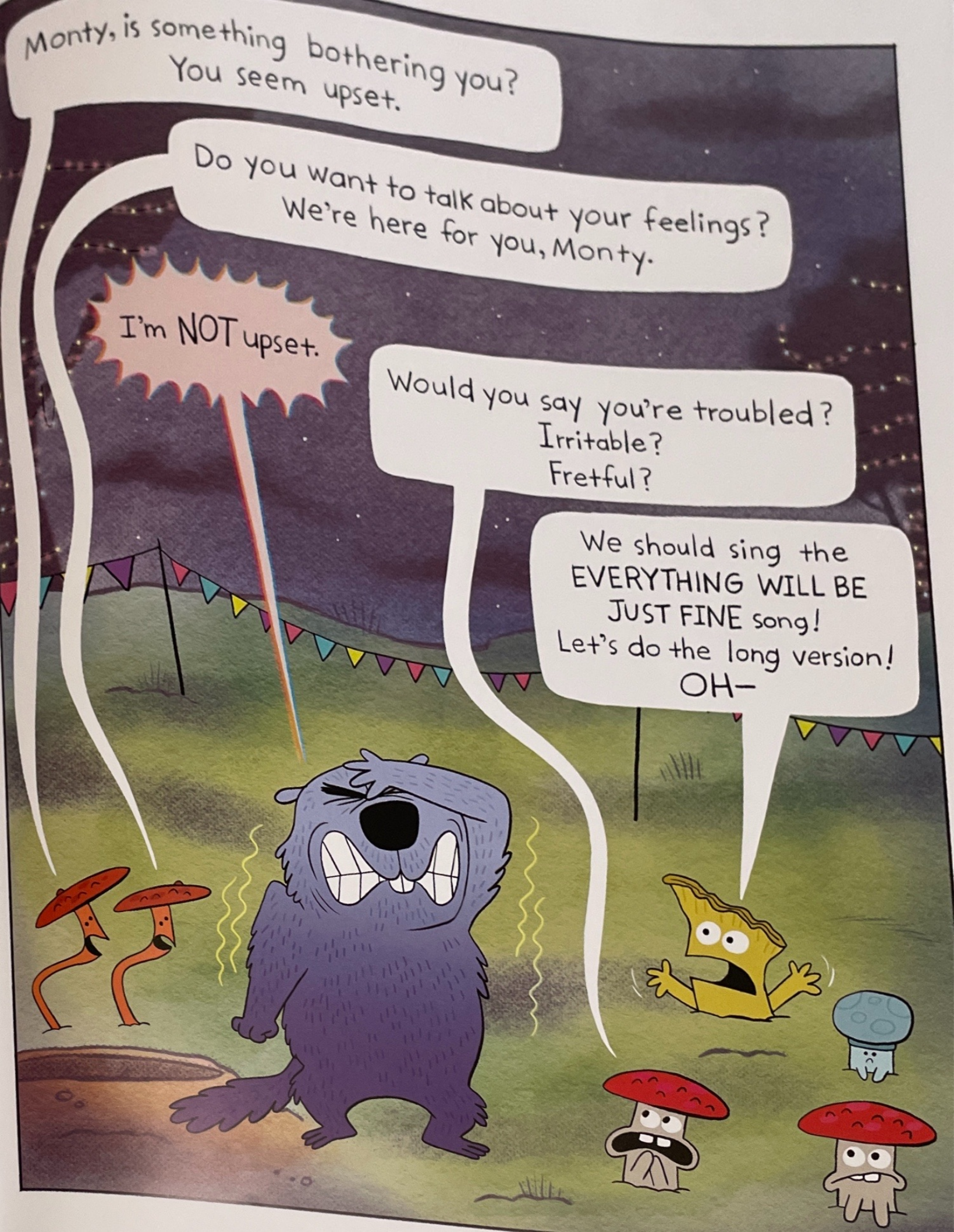
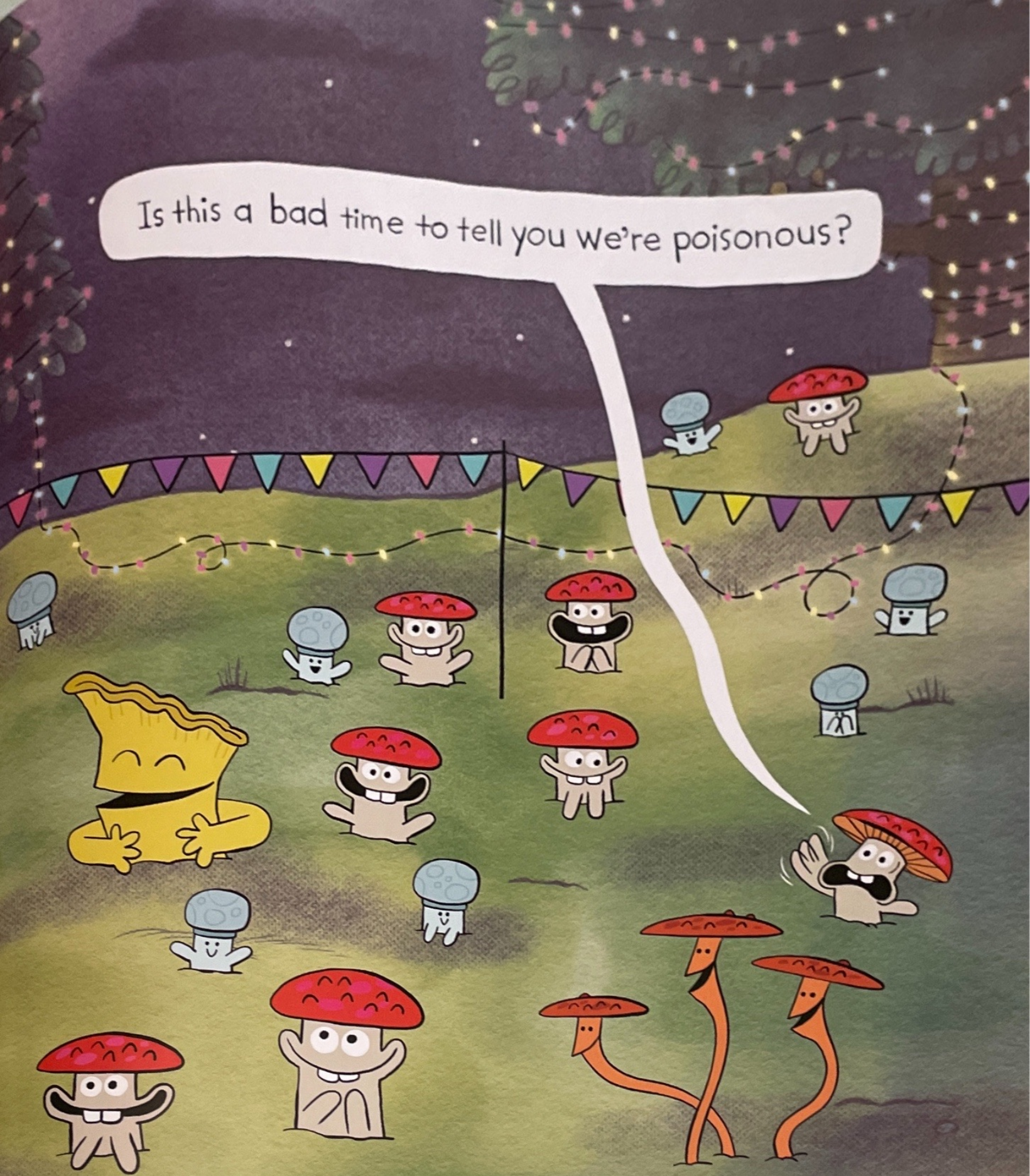

Monty, is something bothering you? You seem upset.
Do you want to talk about your feelings? We're here for you, Monty.
I'm NOT upset.
Would you say you're troubled? Irritable? Fretful?
We should sing the EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST FINE song! Let's do the long version! OH—

BE QUIET OR I WILL EAT
EVERY LAST ONE OF You!

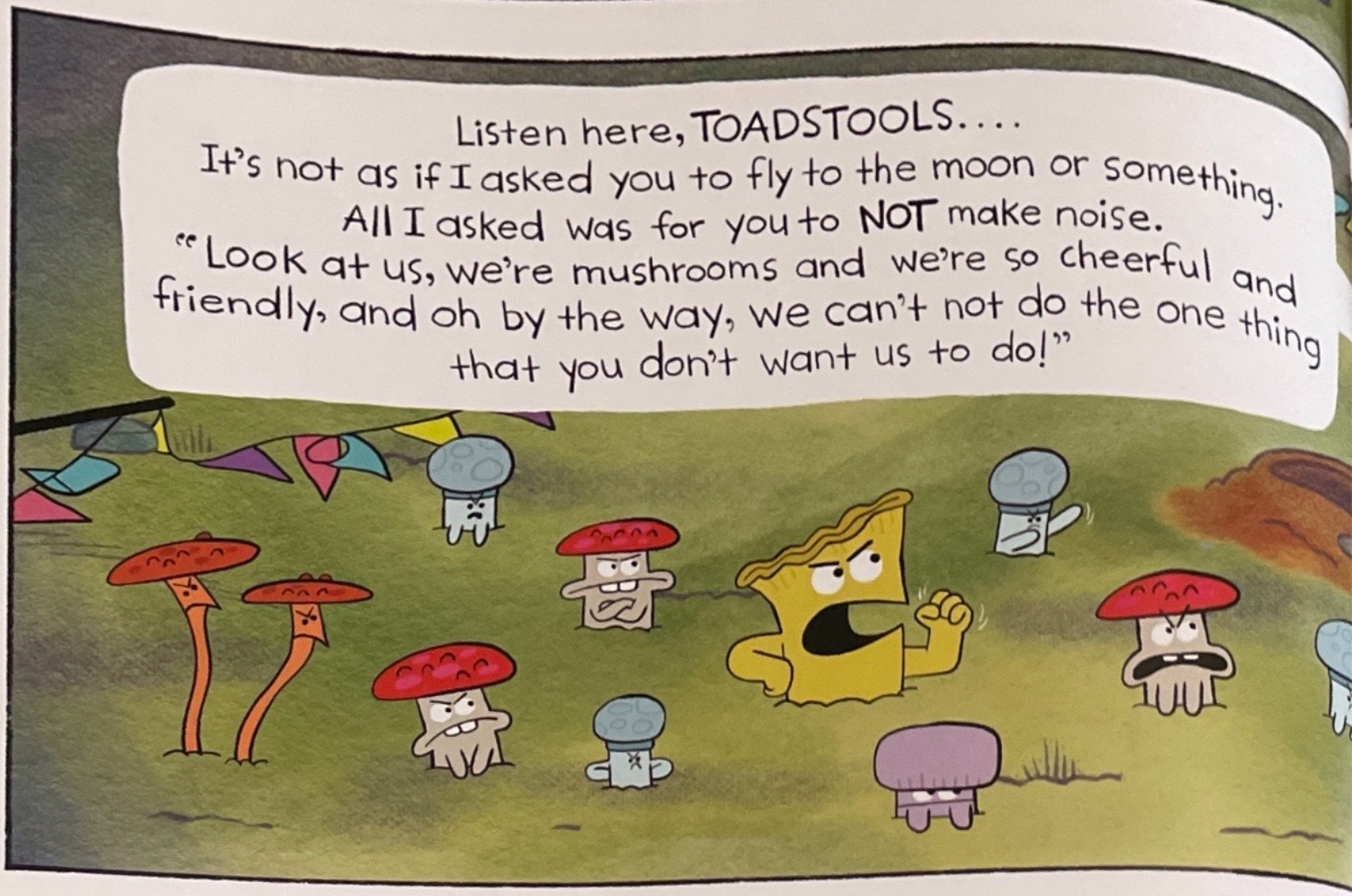


What now? Poor Monty needs some time to think.
Thinking can be difficult for an upset marmot.

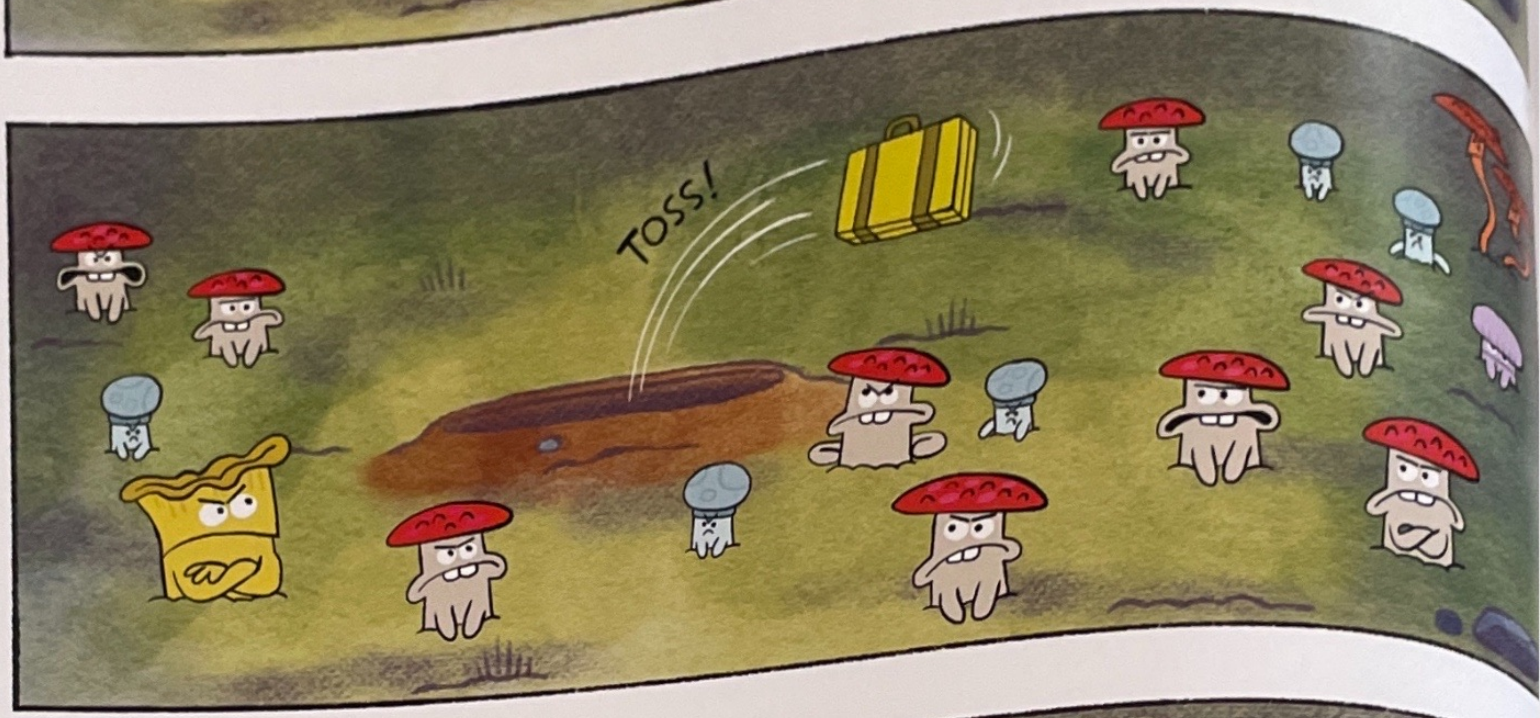
PLEASE OH PLEASE OH PLEASE COULD YOU JUST BE QUIET FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
Of course! Why didn't you just ask?
No problem.
We read you loud and clear.
Roger.

All right, everyone, ten seconds of quiet for our sensitive marmot neighbor... Starting... NOW!
One!
Two!
Three!
Four!
Five!
Six!
Seven!
Eight!
Nine!
Ten!
Hooray! We did it!
Uh-oh.

SHHHHHHHHHHH
POP


Listen here, TOADSTOOLS....
It's not as if I asked you to fly to the moon or something.
All I asked was for you to NOT make noise.
"Look at us, we're mushrooms and we're so cheerful and friendly, and oh by the way, we can't not do the one thing that you don't want us to do!"

HH!!!
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
HOW HARD COULD IT BE TO NOT DO SOMETHING?! GAH!
You don't have to shout, Monty.


TOSS!

BEWARE!
ANNOYING MUSHROOMS NEARBY

There he goes.
I am really going to miss him.
Me too.

Deep in the shady woods,
on the damp forest floor,
you'll find us: banana slugs.

And as everyone knows,
we can't hear.
But we CAN eat poisonous mushrooms.

Howdy, new neighbor!
BEWARE!
ANNOYING MUSHROOMS NEARBY
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

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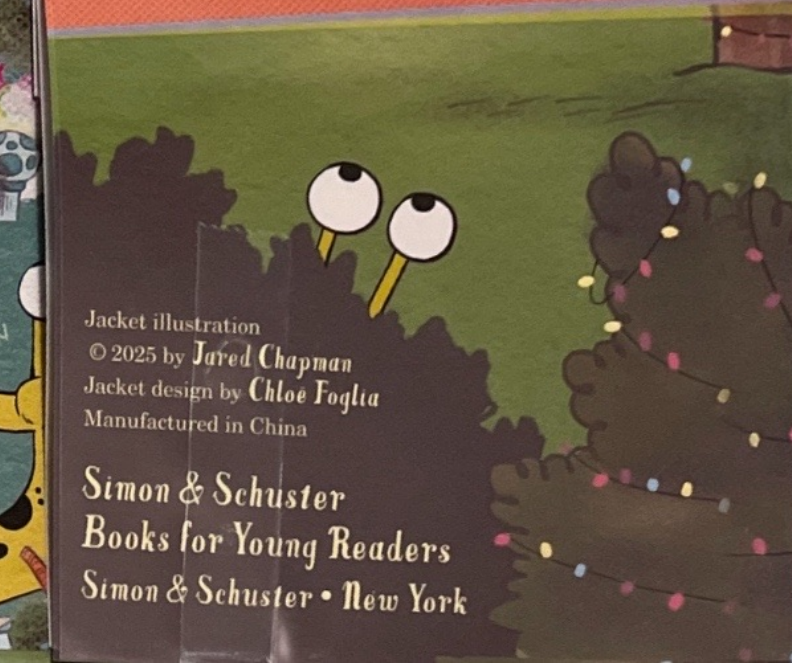
Dev Petty was once a visual effects artist who worked on films like *The Matrix*, but these days she writes picture books, the kind that hopefully make you laugh a lot and think a little. She lives in her hometown of Berkeley, California, with her husband, daughters, dogs, cats, and a snake named Boots.

Jared Chapman is the author and illustrator of *Vegetables in Underwear*; *Seals Are Jerks*; *T. Rex Time Machine*, and *Steve, Raised by Wolves*. He lives in the piney woods of Mount Pleasant, Texas, with his wife and four kids. They do not live near any mushrooms, obviously.



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